

[TS-UK-101462]

No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/09/20 : LOC-HAK-487-18-12-9

ENDOF MSG

DR KISSINGER

[26]

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NIXON

MOSCOW (AP)- IN APPARENT REPRISAL FOR RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM, THE SOVIET UNION HAS DOWNGRADED THE STATUS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S SCHEDULED VISIT HERE NEXT MONTH, COMMUNIST SOURCES REPORTED TODAY.

INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA ORGANS OF THE COMMUNIST WORLD TO REFER HENCEFORTH TO THE VISIT AS A "SUMMIT" AND NOT AS A "STATE VISIT," THE SOURCES SAID. DIPLOMATS FROM COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE SURPRISED AT THE NEWS. THEY SAID THAT UP UNTIL VERY RECENTLY SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS HAD BEEN TELLING THEM THAT NIXON'S MAY 22-29 TRIP TO RUSSIA WOULD BE A STATE VISIT.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A STATE VISIT AND A SUMMIT MEETING IS MORE THAN A FINE DISTINCTION IN DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL. WITH ALL ITS CEREMONY INTENDED TO CONVEY RESPECT FOR THE VISITOR, A STATE VISIT SYMBOLIZES A MOVEMENT TOGETHER OF TWO NATIONS, IN THIS CASE THE WORLD'S TWO GREATEST POWERS. IT SUGGESTS AN ADVANCED DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO STATES, OR AT LEAST ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASIS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. UNLIKE THE STATE VISIT, ONE DIPLOMAT COMMENTED, A SUMMIT MEETING CAN BE HELD ANYWHERE. THE PURPOSE OF A SUMMIT IS USUALLY TO DEAL WITH URGENT CURRENT PROBLEMS, TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE DAILY IRRITATION OF THE GLOBAL CONFRONTATION. IT IMPLIES CONCORD.

JC1058AYS APRIL 21

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